Metering Code

Grid Code Amendments

Consultation Paper

19th November 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 SONI is required to update the Meter Code within the Grid Code to align it with current standards and working practices. The process that we must follow is set out in the Grid Code constitution and in our TSO licence. This is a multi-stage process, whereby we present our proposals to the Grid Code Review Panel, then undertake a wider consultation. We then submit a report to the Utility Regulator, who will direct the modifications that are to be made.

1.2 SONI presented the modifications for discussion at the Grid Code Review Panel on 2nd November 2021 via teleconference. Following the feedback from the panel, SONI has finalised drafts of certain sections of the Meter Code.

1.3 We are now presenting these proposed amendments for wider consultation with all affected parties.

1.4 The proposed amended texts of the Grid Code, with both clean and redlined versions of each relevant section showing all the changes made to the existing version of the Grid Code, can be found in the "Grid Codes" section of SONI's website. This consultation paper sets out a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the Grid Code and SONI seeks comments from relevant parties on any aspect of the proposed amendments.

1.5 Section 2 of this paper provides background information. Section 3 provides a high-level overview of the proposed Grid Code modifications. Section 4 outlines the next steps.

1.6 The deadline for submission of comments is close of business on 07th January 2022 See section 4.1 for further details. We will submit a copy of all responses to the Utility Regulator alongside our report on this consultation. If you require your response to remain confidential you should clearly state this on the coversheet of the response. We intend to publish all non-confidential responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Regulatory Authorities.

2. Background and overview

2.1 The SONI meter code in its current form has not been updated to reflect the divergence of SONI and NIE Networks in 2009 and the resultant working standards and practices established between the two companies on Large Scale Tariff and Operational Metering.

2.2 In 2021, a review of the SONI Meter Code was undertaken by SONI alongside NIE Networks to update the entire Meter Code to reflect the current roles and responsibilities undertaken by the two companies, SONI as the Meter Data Provider and NIE Networks as the Meter Operator to the customers affected.

2.3 Updating the SONI Meter Code also allowed for any sections that were outdated in terms of technology, legislation and Engineering standards to be aligned with current Industry advancements.

3. High-level overview of proposed Meter Code modifications

Introduction

3.1 The required updates to the Meter Code have resulted in a number of changes. This consultation paper will therefore provide a high-level summary of the main changes; consequently, respondents are encouraged to read the red-line version of the Meter Code available on the SONI website in order to review all modifications in their entirety.

Definitions Section

3.2 Terms removed- 'Data Collector' term removed as it is an obsolete technology. 'NIE Customer' and 'Non NIE Customer' terms removed due to changes in the supplier market where NIE Energy Ltd is no longer the sole supplier.

3.3 Terms edited- 'Meter Reconciliation Statement' to reflect advancements made by SONI in dealing with the obligatory process.

3.4 New terms added- 'Relevant Meter Operator', to reflect NIE Networks role as Meter Operator. 'Final Metering Scheme' to define a term previously undefined in Sub Code 1- Interim Metering Scheme, and 'Approved Meter Manufacturer' to highlight the role this party has in the metering processes. Also added 'Customer' to replace the 'NIE Customer' and 'Non NIE Customer' terms removed.

Main Code Section

3.5 Inclusion of NIE Networks role as the 'Relevant Meter Operator' where appropriate.

3.6 Inclusion of MC 4.2 for data collection provisions in the event of data links failure and MC 4.4 for customer provision of communications link, which is already standard practice in the connection offer process of large scale connections.

3.7 MC5.4 included reflecting obligation to procure metering from an 'Approved Meter Manufacturer' as per the Measuring Instruments UK Regulation (MID).

3.8 Other updates made including- section 8.6 the TSO and Relevant Meter Operator metering records inspection requirements, obsolete technology terms removed and replaced and updated references to external documents such as the Retail Markets procedures.

Sub Codes Section

3.9 Inclusion of NIE Networks role as the 'Relevant Meter Operator' where appropriate throughout the sub codes.

3.10 Standards for meters, metering current transformers and voltage transformers, test terminal blocks updated to bring them in line with Industry and NIE Networks operational policies for metering.

3.11 Sections referring to calibration and compensation setting of metering changed to reflect that these tasks are now done by the Approved Meter Operator, not NIE Networks, in line with MID legislation.

3.12 New sub code 2.4 included for metering of circuits associated with an AGU, reflecting current standards and practices applied to this generator unit type.

3.13 Subsequently, the existing sub code 2.4 was renamed as sub code 2.5 for the calibration, testing and commissioning requirements of metering.

Agreed Operation Procedures

3.14 Non NIE Customer Agreed Procedures removed as no longer required, please see 3.2.

3.15 Agreed Procedure 2 for Advance Meter Reconciliation tolerances in Appendix C decreased for Main vs Check Meter allowable tolerance from 1.5% to 0.15% in line with UK and Ireland Industry practice. Advance Meter Reconciliation proposed to now be done more frequently- twice as opposed to once annually.

3.16 Minor updates made throughout the procedures to reflect Technology advancements such as use of Email instead of Fax, and updated contact information for any customer queries.

4. Next steps

4.1 The consultation period will run for 7 weeks. Users are invited to send their responses to SONI via email gridcode@soni.ltd.uk by close of business on 7th January 2022. In the meantime, should any Users have any queries on this consultation they should contact SONI via rowan.griffin@soni.ltd.uk and/or GridCode@soni.ltd.uk.

4.2 Following receipt of comments in relation to this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, SONI will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Condition 16 of its Licence, send to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the “Authority”):

4.2.1 a report on the outcome of its review;

4.2.2 the proposed revisions to the Grid Code which SONI (having regard to the outcome of such review) reasonably thinks fit for the achievement of the objectives of the Grid Code referred to in paragraph 1(b) and (c) of Condition 16 of the SONI Licence; and

4.2.3 Any written representations or objections from electricity undertakings or the Republic of Ireland System Operator (including any proposals by such persons for revisions to the Grid Code not accepted by SONI in the course of the review) arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.

4.2.4 If you require your response to remain confidential you should clearly state this on the coversheet of the response. We intend to publish all non-confidential

responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Regulatory Authorities.

4.3 Following the end of the consultation period and the discussions to be held with the Authority, revisions to the Grid Code will be finalised and published on the SONI website once approval has been received from the Authority.